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(*b*) whether the Government have any proposal to open new Police stations in the South Arcot district; and

(*c*) if so, where and when?

THE HON. SRI C. SUBRAMANIAM : (*a*) & (*b*) No, Sir.

(*c*) Does not arise.

[*Note.*—**An asterisk (*) at the commencement of a speech indicates revision by the Member.**]

II.—STATEMENT UNDER RULE 40 *RE* LOCK-OUT IN THE MALABAR TILE FACTORY, FEROKE.

MR. SPEAKER : I have received a notice under Rule 40 from the hon. Member Sri K. P. Gopalan calling attention of Hon. Minister for Agriculture on a matter of urgent public importance, namely, the dispute between the management of the Malabar Tile Factory, Feroke, and the Tile Workers' Union and the lock-out ordered by the management.

SRI K. P. GOPALAN : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I bring this matter before the Government and request the Hon. Minister to make a statement on the subject. Since June 6th, 1956, the Malabar Tile Factory, Feroke, has declared a temporary lock-out. The manager of the factory is the President of the Tile Manufacturers' Association. Feroke is a tile manufacturing centre. There are about 4,000 workers engaged in that industry. Before declaring such a lock-out the management never gave notice to the workers, nor did they put up a notice on the notice board informing the workers of such a lock-out. This is the first point. The other point I wish to bring to the notice of the Hon. Minister is that there is a dispute regarding this factory pending before the Industrial Tribunal, Coimbatore, on an allegation that some workers were dismissed. Without ascertaining the opinion of the Honourable Court, the management has temporarily closed the factory. This is an illegal step and it violates section 23 of the Industrial Disputes Act. The reason advanced by the management is that there is not sufficient stock of clay in the factory. This argument will not hold good because in previous years there were less stocks of clay in the factory and more workers were given employment. In this particular case the manager did not want that the case regarding dismissal of workers should be put up before the Industrial Tribunal, Coimbatore. He also wanted to curb trade union activities in the factory. The management wants to see that the tile industry is declared a seasonal one by the Government by adopting this lock-out and forcing unemployment on labourers. Many representations have been made in this regard. Even the hon. Member Sri T. C. Narayanan Nambiar, the President of the Union, made representations to the Government and the management. But the management did not care to settle the issue by mutual negotiations and by mutual understanding. Why I have brought this matter to the notice of the Government is this : The

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manager of the tile factory is the President of the Tile Manufacturers' Association. So this procedure will be followed by the other managements also. That will lead to unrest in that area. In this connexion I may bring to the notice of the Hon. Minister that there is a good market for these tiles. More tiles are necessary now for the national reconstruction works. During such a period if the management should enforce this unemployment on these workers and hamper production in the country, it is a serious matter which the Government should consider and take necessary steps. I hold the opinion that the temporary closure by the management of the factory is illegal and wantonly done. It is the duty of the Government to see that the whole question is enquired into and an amicable settlement arrived at between the management and the labour union.

* THE HON. SRI M. BHAKTAVATSALAM : Mr. Speaker, Sir, the hon. Member has referred to the failure of the Government to intervene in the labour dispute between the management of Malabar Tile Factory, Feroke, and the Tile Workers' Union, consequent on the alleged lock-out of the factory from 6th June 1956 resulting in unemployment and misery of 300 workers. I shall give a brief account of the matter.

The management of the Malabar Tile Works, Feroke, laid off about 300 workers working in the factory early in June 1956, for want of sufficient clay in the factory to keep all the workers engaged. The union represented to the Commissioner of Labour telegraphically on 14th June 1956 about the lay-off situation in the above factory. He communicated a copy of the telegram to the Labour Officer, Kozhikode, asking him to enquire into the matter. The Commissioner received a further report from the union on 26th June 1956 reporting the continuance of the lay-off. A copy of it was also forwarded to the Labour Officer for enquiry. Sri Narayanan Nambiar, M.L.A., and Sri K. P. Gopalan, M.L.A., requested the intervention of the Labour Department in the matter telegraphically on 31st July 1956. The Commissioner of Labour sent copies of these telegrams to the Labour Officer and asked him to expedite his report.

The Labour Officer, Kozhikode, enquired into the alleged lock-out on 1st August 1956, and visited the factory on 7th August 1956. The Labour Officer has stated that there was no lock-out of the factory as alleged by the Workers' Union. He was satisfied that the lay-off was for *bona fide* reasons. Sufficient matured clay was not available to work the factory with the full compliment of workers. The pugmill which was installed in 1953 in the factory in order to make tile blocks without the clay undergoing maturing process was not working satisfactorily. The management therefore stopped the new pugmill and adopted the old process of leaving the clay in the clay pits for a period of three to four weeks for maturing

in order to eliminate excess quantity of moisture. As sufficient clay could not be stocked in the clay-pit during the monsoon, the present lay-off was inevitable.

Out of three hundred workers, 163 have already been paid lay-off wages for the maximum period of 45 days as provided under the Industrial Disputes Act. The management have not paid the remaining 137 workers the lay-off compensation, as in their opinion they are not eligible for such compensation under the Industrial Disputes Act, since they were employed by contractors. The Labour Officer has, however, advised the workers to file claim petitions under the Industrial Disputes Act, for the recovery of lay-off wages. The question whether these workers are eligible for compensation will be examined on receipt of the claim petitions.

From the above it will be seen that it is not correct to say that Government did not intervene in the situation.

III.—ADJOURNMENT MOTIONS *RE*:

(1) Arrest of handloom weavers in Karur.

MR. SPEAKER: I have received notice of an adjournment motion from the hon. Member Sri M. Kalyanasundaram saying that the House do stand adjourned to discuss a matter of urgent public importance, namely, the action of the Government in arresting about 120 handloom weavers in Karur yesterday—the letter is dated 14th August 1956—instead of taking action against the proprietors of Viswant Textiles who are refusing to implement the award of the Industrial Tribunal which has resulted in a serious situation in the whole town of Karur.

I would like to know from the hon. Member how it comes within the terms of Rule 41.

Sri M. KALYANASUNDARAM: கனம் சபாநாயகர் அவர்களே, சுமார் 120 தொழிலாளர்கள் போலீஸாரால் கைது செய்யப்பட்டிருக்கிறார்கள் என்பதை மட்டும் வைத்துக்கொண்டு இந்தப் பிரச்னையை சபை முன்பு கொண்டுவரவில்லை. தொழில் கோர்ட்டுகளின் தீர்ப்புகளை அமுல் நடத்துவதில் சர்க்காரின் கொள்கையை இது பிரதிபலிக்கிறது என்பதை எடுத்துக்காட்டவே இதை சபை முன்பு கொண்டுவர வேண்டிய அவசியம் ஏற்பட்டிருக்கிறது.

கரூரில் விஸ்வம் டெக்ஸ்டைல்ஸ் என்ற கைத்தறித் தொழிற்சாலையின் நிர்வாகஸ்தர்கள் தொழிலாளர்களைப் பழிவாங்கவேண்டுமென்ற எண்ணத்திலே தொழிற்சாலையை மூடிவிட்டதாக அறிவித்துவிட்டு வேறு பெயருடன் அந்தத் தொழிற்சாலையை நடத்துகிறார்கள். அதுபற்றி தகராறு ஏற்பட்டு சர்க்கார் இந்த விஷயத்தை 'அட்ஜுடிகேஷனுக்கு' விட்டார்கள். இது சம்பந்தமாக தொழில் கோர்ட்டு தீர்ப்பு ஏப்ரல் மாதம் வெளிவந்திருக்கிறது. கெஜட்டில் தீர்ப்பு பிரசுரிக்கப்பட்டு மூன்று மாதங்கள் ஆகியும், அது இன்னும் அமுல் நடத்தப்படவில்லை. தீர்ப்பில் என்ன கூறப்பட்டிருக்கிறது என்பதை சபையின் கவனத்துக்குக் கொண்டுவர விரும்புகிறேன். **"Under such circumstances the only finding I can give is that the closure put forward by the Management is not at all bona fide."** இதை இன்னும் என்ன தெளிவாக குறிப்பிடப்படவேண்டுமென்பது